

STREET SMART

March 2008

Governments
SANBAG
Working Together

Meeting Summary of the SANBAG Board of Directors

San Bernardino Associated Governments ■ 1170 W. 3rd St., 2nd Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92410 ■ (909) 884-8276
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■ Board Meeting News Briefs:

◆ **Update on Freeway Congestion Monitoring Program**

A very important aspect of maintaining and operating a highway network is system monitoring. In California, the Interstate, State Route, and U.S. Highway networks are all maintained and monitored by Caltrans. Data is obtained through a variety of methods, including: loop detectors (wires embedded into the highway on every lane of traffic to form a closed loop), radar detectors, wireless magnetometers, and manual tachometer readings. Caltrans monitors traffic counts and congestion on a regular basis, providing valuable information for State and regional agencies, and the U.S. Department of Transportation. This aids in system planning, funding and with traveler information. An extensive report was given to the SANBAG Board.

◆ **Light Synchronization Program**

SANBAG is seeking funding from the Proposition 1B Traffic Light Synchronization Program to fund 50% of the construction costs of a coordinated traffic signal system in the San Bernardino Valley. The California Transportation Commission will evaluate and adopt a program of projects at the CTC meeting on May 28-29, 2008.

◆ **Port of Entry Fee Legislation Received**

House Resolution (H.R.) 5102 was introduced to Congress on January 23, 2008. This bill, also known as *Our Nation's Trade, Infrastructure, Mobility, and Efficiency Act of 2007*, proposes to expedite the movement of goods in trade corridors and provide transportation funding to local communities impacted by trade. This proposed legislation is in the first stage of the legislative process where the bill is considered in committee and may undergo significant changes in markup sessions. The bill has been referred to the following committees: House Transportation and Infrastructure, House Ways and Means, House Foreign Affairs. SANBAG Board received the report and was invited to give input on the issue while it is undergoing committee review.

◆ **Funding for San Bernardino to Redlands Corridor Study**

SANBAG Board authorized approval to execute an agreement with Omnitrans to fund the San Bernardino to Redlands Corridor Regionally Significant Transportation Investment Study and Environmental Analysis. This agreement will move the project, otherwise referred to as the "Redlands Rail Extension," forward into the study and environmental review phase of the project. The estimated cost is \$837,800. Omnitrans is the designated Federal Transit Administration grantee to receive "Urban Formula Funds" apportioned to the San Bernardino Valley. Public scoping meetings will be held on April 22 and 24, 2008, in San Bernardino and Redlands (*see calendar items on the right...*).

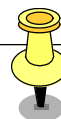
City-County Conference

SANBAG Board Members participated in the San Bernardino City-County Conference held in Lake Arrowhead on March 20-21, 2008. More than 230 people, including city and county government elected officials and staff, met to focus their attention on topics related to "Going Green" - environmentally conscious building and planning concepts.

SANBAG Safety Tip



Construction continues on numerous SANBAG projects, causing some delays, detours and road closures. Columns and bridge framing are currently being constructed at the I-10/Live Oak Canyon Interchange in Yucaipa, and on the south side of the I-215/5th Street Bridge and at the State Street/University Parkway Grade Separation project in San Bernardino. Please proceed with caution in these areas.



Down the road ...

- **April 2:** SANBAG Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m
- **April 3:** State of the County, Ontario Convention Center, 5:00 pm
- **April TBA:** Administrative Committee, 9 am
- **April TBA:** Major Projects Committee, 9 a.m.
- **April 16:** Plans & Programs Committee, 1 p.m.
- **April 22:** San Bernardino to Redlands Rail Scoping Meeting, Santa Fe Depot, San Bernardino, 3-7 pm
- **April 24:** San Bernardino to Redlands Rail Scoping Meeting, Redlands City Hall, 5:30-7:30 pm

Public meetings offered look at I-10 carpool lanes in East Valley

Residents, business operators and commuters got an early glimpse of proposed Interstate 10 carpool lanes during two Open Houses held recently in Redlands and Fontana. San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) and the California Department of Transportation hosted the meetings to allow stakeholders to learn about the planned lanes and offer their opinions about the project.

Visitors talked to project planners, viewed exhibits and received information about the project schedule and funding. They also were encouraged to complete comment cards so their questions or concerns would be included in the project record.

The project involves conducting preliminary engineering and environmental studies for the proposed addition of one carpool lane in each direction within the existing median on Interstate 10 for about 25 miles between Haven Avenue in Ontario and Ford Street in Redlands. The lanes are intended to help relieve traffic congestion, encourage ridesharing, improve freeway operations and boost access to logistics centers and hospitals.

"This stretch of freeway carries between 204,000 and 237,000 vehicles each day, making it one of our region's most heavily congested freight and commuter corridors," said SANBAG Executive Director Deborah Barmack. "Adding carpool lanes will improve our traffic flow and offer another incentive to share rides."

Carpool lanes maximize freeway capacity by providing incentives to share rides via vanpools and carpools. They are designed to move more people per vehicle and to save travel time. Ridesharing also helps reduce pollution and dependency on fossil fuels. SANBAG works with employers in San Bernardino County to offer financial rewards to employees who rideshare regularly.

Caltrans District Director Mike Perovich pointed out the benefits of having carpool lanes extend from where they end now in Ontario.



(all photos) Members of the public talked to planners and engineers about the project.

"Extending these lanes east from Ontario will provide continuous high occupancy vehicle lanes on I-10 through almost the entire section of San Bernardino County. This will offer greater opportunities for ridesharing throughout the region, helping to move more people per vehicle on this crowded freeway," Perovich said.

In addition, the project proposes to widen or rebuild existing freeway bridges, add a concrete median barrier, improve drainage and add auxiliary lanes to help drivers merge onto the freeway.

The engineering studies will include land surveying, mapping, traffic operations, railroad operations, location of public utilities, right of way requirements, drainage needs, project alternatives, geometric drawings, evaluation of the project alternatives and preliminary cost estimates.

Several project alternatives will be considered, including the width of shoulders. Project planners are studying the possibility of having narrower shoulders on some sections of the freeway, in order to avoid impacting existing freeway structures. The study will evaluate effects on the environment and take into account opinions of community members, air quality, cultural and historic properties, the presence of hazardous materials, sensitive plants and wildlife, noise, water quality and visual aesthetics.

The engineering and environmental studies are set to be complete by late 2010. Final design and right of way requirements may be complete by 2014. Construction could start by 2015 and take about three years, but it is contingent upon the availability of funds, which is estimated at \$1.2 billion in today's dollars. Funds will be derived from a combination of federal, state and local sources, including Measure I, the half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements in San Bernardino County.